



Partnering with International Study Abroad Vendors for Mutual Benefits



Wayde Morse, Greg Somers
School of Forestry & Wildlife Sciences
Auburn University

Auburn University Strategic Plan

STRATEGIC PRIORITY 1: ELEVATING ACADEMICS

- **Initiative 2: Strengthen learning and teaching**
 - Teaching and learning are at the heart of the Auburn experience. We need to review our approaches and content, redesigning them to meet new challenges. E.g. for example, **the global economic competition Auburn students will face upon graduation will be far more demanding than that encountered by previous generations. Likewise, the strains on the Earth's resources they will experience will be unprecedented.**
- ***Study Abroad***
 - Approximately 5% of AU students currently engage in study abroad. **Our goal is that 25% of our students** at the Auburn campus and 10% at the Montgomery campus receive such experience.

Benefits of International Study

(Dwyer 2004, 2005)

- **Academic Attainment**
 - Enhanced interest in academic study
 - Influenced subsequent educational experience
 - Influenced decision to attend graduate school
- **Career impact**
 - Acquired skill set for career path
 - Ignited interest in career direction
- **Cultural development**
 - Better understand own cultural values and biases
 - Influenced interactions with people from different cultures
 - Influenced them to seek a diversity of friends
- **Personal growth**
 - Increased self-confidence
 - Increased maturity
 - Long term impact on world view

Constraints on Long-Term Study Abroad

- Why students don't go...
 - Financial (financial aid)
 - Lack of fit with major
 - Lack of information
 - No sense of what the benefits are
 - Demands of SFWS majors**
- Short term study abroad (STSA)
 - Those who might not do long term

SFWS Opportunities for STSA

- Two courses led by SFWS Faculty
 - Watershed Services (Costa Rica)
 - International Forestry Practicum (Brazil)
- Organization of Tropical Studies (OTS)
 - Tropical Biology & Ecology
- Missing courses with broader appeal that can address constraints on student travel



Watershed Services

The ecology, business, and social impact of managing inland water systems in Costa Rica

Fall : 2 Credit Course

Instructors: Dr. Wayde Morse (AU), Dr. Quint Newcomer (UGA)

Course Level: Graduate/Senior/Junior

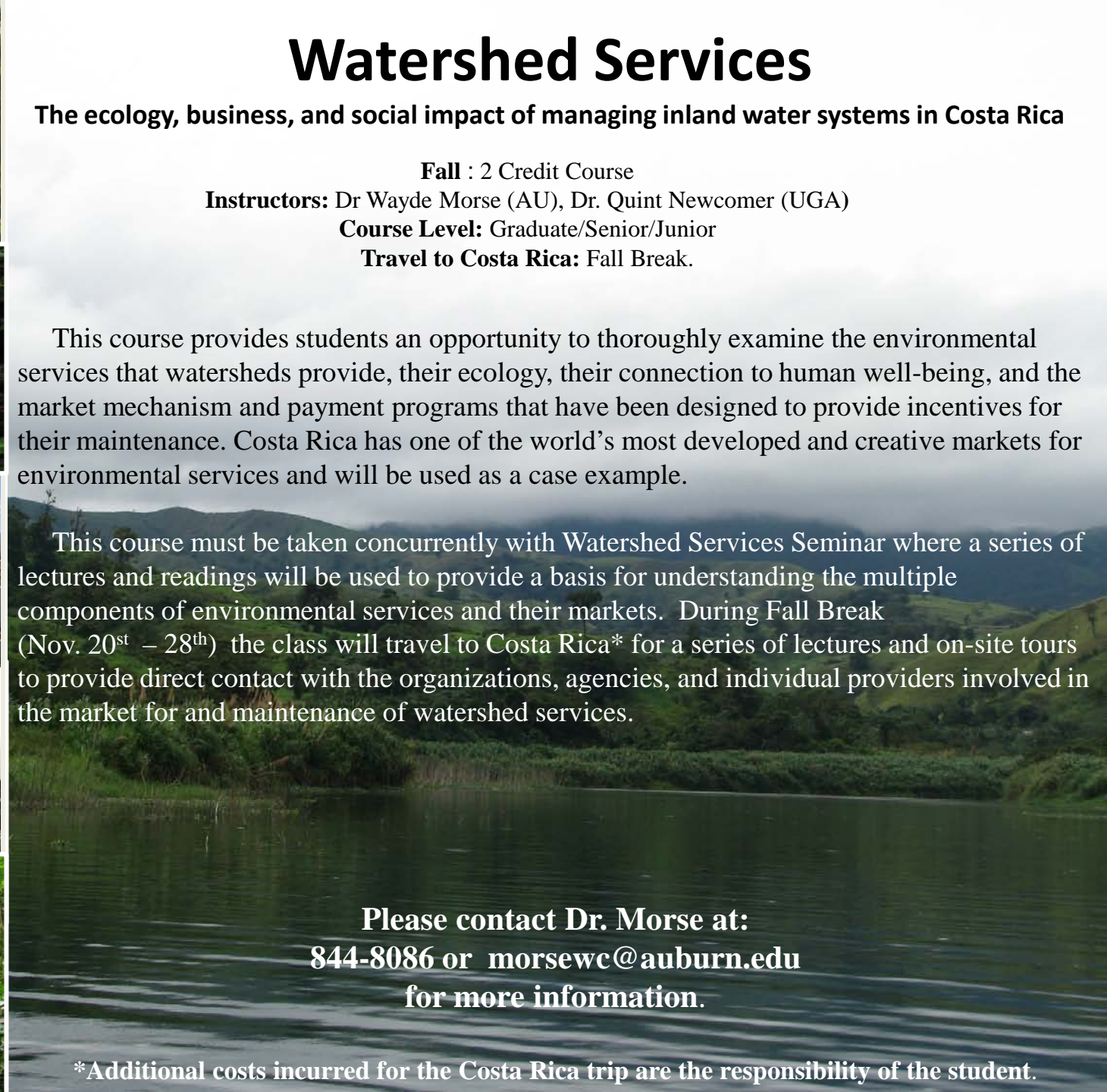
Travel to Costa Rica: Fall Break.

This course provides students an opportunity to thoroughly examine the environmental services that watersheds provide, their ecology, their connection to human well-being, and the market mechanism and payment programs that have been designed to provide incentives for their maintenance. Costa Rica has one of the world's most developed and creative markets for environmental services and will be used as a case example.

This course must be taken concurrently with Watershed Services Seminar where a series of lectures and readings will be used to provide a basis for understanding the multiple components of environmental services and their markets. During Fall Break (Nov. 20st – 28th) the class will travel to Costa Rica* for a series of lectures and on-site tours to provide direct contact with the organizations, agencies, and individual providers involved in the market for and maintenance of watershed services.

Please contact Dr. Morse at:
844-8086 or morsewc@auburn.edu
for more information.

*Additional costs incurred for the Costa Rica trip are the responsibility of the student.



BRAZIL:

International Forestry Practicum

Introduction to basic concepts of global trade and finance and how these concepts might be applied to the management of forest resources in a global context.

Instructor: Mr. Richard W. Hall

Summer mini semester: 3 credits

Course level: Graduate/Senior/Junior

For more information contact:

Dr. Greg Somers (334) 844-1006 OR

VISIT <http://www.sfws.auburn.edu/>



SFWS Opportunities for STSA

- Two courses led by SFWS Faculty
 - Watershed Services (Costa Rica)
 - International Forestry Practicum (Brazil)
- Organization of Tropical Studies (OTS)
 - Tropical Biology & Ecology
- Missing courses with broader appeal that can address constraints on student travel



Contact with International Student Volunteers, Inc. (ISV)

- Directed Studies with individual students
 - Thailand
 - Costa Rica



Contact with International Student Volunteers, Inc. (ISV)

- Former Project Leader and board member now faculty at AU
- ISV was concurrently looking for a university partner
- Courses on
 - Natural Resource Management
 - Community Development

International Student Volunteers, Inc. (ISV)

<http://www.isvonline.com/>

- Non-profit international students travel organization since 1980s
- Since 2002 combined volunteer projects with adventure travel (2 weeks each)
- Over 4,000 students each year from over 800 universities worldwide
- 2,000,000 hours of service in conservation and community development



International Student Volunteers, Inc. (ISV)

- County staff and offices where they operate
 - Australia, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Eastern Europe (Bosnia, Croatia, Romania), Ecuador, New Zealand, South Africa, Thailand
- Qualified and highly trained Project Leaders
- Long-term partners with local government, non-governmental, university and grass-roots community and conservation projects
- Educational emphasis
 - Service/experiential learning emphasis



Service Learning Goal

- Service learning:
 - Service activity that benefits community and/or environment
 - Skills are applied/acquired
 - Service is linked to theory-based academic work **
 - Structured reflection is integrated into project to gain further understanding of course**
- Service learning component greatly enhances short term experiences to approximate long term outcomes (Lewis and Niesenbaum 2005)

Partnership Appeal

- Appeal to ISV
 - Recognized & consistent academic partner
 - Academic credit as added value to trip
 - Financial support for academic portion of trip
- Appeal to SFWS
 - Diverse international opportunities for students
 - Fit of course topics
 - Low academic cost to participants
 - Self-financing
 - Additional resource in SFWS for teaching/ administering international programs

Contributions

- ISV
 - Full in-country logistics and presence, established project partnerships, project leader recruitment and training, in-country instruction, student recruitment
- AU
 - Work with ISV on course development, added academic training of project leaders, in-country project academic oversight, final grading , student recruitment



Student requirements: Both Courses

- Readings prior to trip
- In-Country
 - Two weeks service learning /research volunteer project participation
 - Daily journal
 - Evening discussion groups
- Term synthesis paper following trip
- 3 credit hours

Business Plan

- Estimate of at least 250 students per year
- Tuition and registration fee to AU
- Hire a PostDoc
 - Academic training of on-site instructors
 - Academic oversight of ISV credit programs (in-country)
 - Grades final paper and develops final grade incorporating grades from on-site instructor
 - Teach courses in SFWS on sustainability/eco-tourism/interpretation
 - Student advisor for SFWS students regarding international programs
- If additional students register and funds become available
 - SFWS student fellowships for international study abroad opportunities
 - Part time administrative assistant

Constraints Addressed

- Fit of coursework with major
 - Natural Resource Management
 - Community Development
- Financially viability with tuition included
- Offered through SFWS so that we can provided course content and direct information regarding course
- Service/experiential learning approach (benefits)
- Short term frequently offered courses



International Issues in Community Development

Locations: Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic, Thailand, Ecuador, Eastern Europe, South Africa.

Instructors: Dr. Wayde Morse (AU), Deanna Mathewson M.Sc. (ISV)

Credit hours: 3

Course number: FOWS 3025

Course level: Undergraduate

Semester offered: Summer

Course description:

Community development occurs when people come together to choose and then implement projects that they believe will benefit the majority of the members of the community. Community development projects may be designed for economic and/or social benefits. Examples of projects designed to produce economic benefits to be shared by the community include constructing a community business like a communally-owned eco-lodge or fish farm, constructing tourist trails through a nearby forest, working for a new or better bus service, or repairing the community school house. Projects for social benefits may include a drainage system at a community soccer field, constructing a community center, and operating a day care center for the children of women who work outside the home.

This two-week course allows students to look at all aspects of community development in rural areas through international program placements, on-site volunteer tasks with selected communities, and exploration of the host country. Students volunteer on community development projects and learn about the host country, its people, culture, and ecosystems. Students can meet with diverse groups within their host community, including local leaders, women's organizations, environmental NGOs, humanitarian aid groups, community associations, school children, and families. In addition, they will participate in group discussions, and visit and study local heritage sites, protected areas and wildlife reserves. As a result, students are able to see which people and groups are involved and how they interact, and to understand the needs of the host community and the development choices it makes.

Restrictions/Prerequisites: Students **MUST** apply and be enrolled in an approved ISV trip. Please contact the Office of International Education at Auburn University to register for the course <http://www.auburn.edu/oie/> or contact Dr. Morse 844-8086 or morsewc@auburn.edu for more information.





International Issues in Natural Resource Management

Locations: Australia; New Zealand; Costa Rica; USA/Canada, Thailand, Ecuador, Eastern Europe, South Africa.

Instructors: Dr. Wayde Morse (AU), Deanna Mathewson M.Sc. (ISV)

Credit hours: 3

Course number: FOWS 3015

Course level: Undergraduate

Semester offered: Summer

Course description:

Awareness of the importance of sustainable management of natural resources has increased significantly in the last several decades as a result of scientific research, media attention, and greater accountability and transparency of exploitative practices at global and regional scales. Local communities, governments, and international organizations have come to recognize that the Earth's natural resources are not inexhaustible and need to be protected and conserved in a proactive manner to ensure fundamental ecosystem functioning, as well as their persistence for generations to come.

In support of these objectives, this two-week course examines contemporary natural and cultural resource management practices and conservation programs through national and international program placements. Students assist local organizations in attaining their specific conservation goals within ethnic heritage sites, protected areas, or managed lands during the two-week period. This course provides students with the opportunity to: 1) gain hands-on experience volunteering in support of conservation and sustainable management of natural resources; and 2) explore and learn about the host country, its people, cultures, and ecosystems. Through lectures, participatory discussions, exploration, and direct involvement in local conservation and natural resource management projects, this program introduces students to issues including sustainable community development, conservation of biological diversity and ecosystems, habitat restoration, threatened and endangered species recovery, and species inventories.

Restrictions/Prerequisites: Students **MUST** apply and be enrolled in an approved ISV trip. Please contact the Office of International Education at Auburn University to register for the course <http://www.auburn.edu/oie/> or contact Dr. Morse 844-8086 or morsewc@auburn.edu for more information.





Partnering with International Study Abroad Vendors for Mutual Benefits

Questions?



Wayde Morse, Greg Somers
School of Forestry & Wildlife Sciences
Auburn University